TELEGRAMS
"WESTBUROTL LONDON W1"
TELEX 24378

The Westbury

NEW BOND STREET
LONDON W.1
TELEPHONE MAYFAIR 7755

Dear Evelyn —

Thank you for the lovely basket of fruit - it was so sweet and thoughtful.

I'm sorry about the rains and also that we were unable to reach you in time to ask if you would join us this evening.

Have a marvelous Trip with Eric, and please, when you plan

a Trip To New York. Let me know - I would like so much To see you again.

My address is

415 E. 52 St. and the phone is Plaza 5-9283.

Selma Meerbaum

October 14, 1965

Mr. Lester Merkin
515 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Lester:

Having just returned from our wild African experience, I wanted to thank you for being nice to Evelyn, in London.

Evelyn certainly enjoyed meeting you and Selma but I have not had the privilege of the latter.

Incidentally, would you be nice enough to send me a second catalogue of your November 5, 1965 sale. I am quite amused at one of your comments in that sale.

I would also like to have a rubbing of the Machins Mills coin which is in the sale so that I can tell what variety it is. If you prefer sending the coin itself I will fire it back immediately.

My kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

LESTER MERKIN
NUMISMATIST

515 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK 22, N. Y.
TELEPHONE: PLAZA 3-1130

October 19, 1965

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Thanks for your letter of October 14th - it's good to hear from you. As for being "nice" to Evelyn, we loved her and we look forward to seeing both of you here in New York. Selma asks me to please have Evelyn drop her a note if she is planning a trip East.

Enclosed you will find the Machins Mills coin, Lot #17 - the other Catalogue has already been sent out. Incidentally, I am curious - to what "comment" are you referring?

See you soon, I hope.

Best regards,

Lester

SM:dmc
Enclosure

MEMBER
PROFESSIONAL NUMISMATISTS GUILD • INTERNATIONAL ASS'N OF PROFESSIONAL NUMISMATISTS
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASS'N • AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY • ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

FORM #105

October 26, 1965

MEMORANDUM

TO Mr. Lester Merkin

FROM Eric P.Newman

Dear Lester:

I return herewith Lot 17 and thank you for giving me the opportunity of seeing it.

The comment I am referring to is the comment on Lot 367 and wonder who put that comment in. Would you be kind enough to enlighten me.

Kindest regards to you and Selma from both of us.

Sincerely,

EPN/etb

RICHARD PICKER, Inc.

COINS

P. O. BOX 123 ALBERTSON

NEW YORK 11507

MAYFAIR 1-0763

DATE 10/28/65 Nº 5916

Eric Newman

Inspection ~~APPROVAL~~

	ITEM	INVENTORY NUMBER	PRICE	
	Lot. 23 4/M Sale	4M		

Plate V No. 9 Nelson #2

MEMO FROM

Richard Picker

P.O. BOX 123 ALBERTSON
NEW YORK 11507
AREA CODE 516 • MAYFAIR 1-0763

10/20/65

Dear Art:

Enclosed is to get the [illegible] Lester Merkin's mail. The enclosed piece I questioned, and brought it home for further study. There's no doubt in my mind that it's Nelson 2, and not 0A as it is purported to be. Since Walter did the cataloguing, Lester would like your opinion. We'd both appreciate it very much if you would check this out as soon as possible, and return it directly to Lester, Air Mail, Special Delivery, Registered. It seems that Lester asked [illegible] a 1700, and each time he said 'yes'. I'm quite convinced that it isn't. Lester is in the position that is unenviable, and would like another opinion. Please do your best to get this studied, and off to him as soon as possible. The sale comes up on Friday, and other interested bidders will be wanting to see it in advance of the sale. Though I saw some nice notes, the collection overall was very disappointing. Lester told me that he only retained the Continentals, but, it's hard to believe that this was once a famous collection of Colonials. I'm of the opinion that Jerl either held other back, or, didn't acquire what he thought he did, or, that the Brabner collection was a nothing. Again, please get to this as soon as possible.

Kindest regards,

Dick

November 2, 1965

Mr. Lester Merkin
515 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Lester:

In accordance with your request for my opinion of the variety of the Voce Populi Irish copper No.23 in your coming sale, I wish to advise you that, in my opinion, it is a much corroded specimen of Nelson No. 2 which is clearly illustrated on Plate V, No. 9, of the British Numismatic Journal.

This is not an American coin and has no connection with America so far as I know. The furor with respect to any varieties being 1700 instead of 1760 is, of course, wishful thinking, but such is the nature of collectors.

The coin is returned herewith.

I am glad to be of help to you at any time you wish.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

CC:
Mr. Richard Picker

CERTIFIED MAIL

EPN/stb

LESTER MERKIN ANNOUNCES

THE OPENING OF HIS STORE AT

65 E. 56th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10022

Mon. thru Sat hrs. 10-5:30

Coins, Currency, Medals, Numismatic

Publications & Antiquities

Expert Appraisal Service

June 13, 1967

Mr. Lester Merkin
65 E. 56th St.,
New York, New York 10022

Dear Lester:

I want to take this opportunity to wish you well in the opening of your new store. You have already demonstrated what can produce dignified success in numismatics.

Evelyn and I send to you and your wife our best wishes.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/stb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

September 11, 1967

Mr. Lester Merkin
65 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Lester:

You were very kind to render such immediate cooperation as to my request to examine the two 1853 U.S. Assay Office $20 pieces (Lots 468 and 469 in your 9/20/67 sale). You asked for a quick return and they are enclosed.

The catalogue description, which I understand was written by Walter Breen, states "incuse mark on frame below F in CALIFORNIA". This led me to wonder whether that incuse mark might be the same as on the Garland piece. It definitely is not and is merely a dent among others on the lower band of the frame. I had hoped I might find the piece from which the Garland coin dies were made.

Both pieces you sent are obviously genuine but I do not agree that they are from different dies. The lack of a serif on the E of TWENTY and on the E of AMERICA would indicate the same obverse die and the extensive die break in the panel on the same reverse would indicate the same reverse die.

Now, there is one thing I do want to call your particular attention to. Lot 468 is jet honed with glass beads. The obverse has grooves from the center outward over the entire surface which can be seen clearly under 20 to 40 magnification. This "improved" the surface tremendously and camouflaged the dents. The other side has been treated as has the second coin. I saw a similar treatment on the same item in a Wayflower Coin Company sale earlier this year. At Copenhagen I spoke on the details of jet honing and this will be published shortly.

My sincere appreciation for your helpfulness.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN
atb

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 7, 1967

Mr. Lester Merkin
65 East 56th Street
New York, New York

Dear Lester:

I was delighted to see your new place of business, at long last, and to have a chance to chat with you.

You were nice enough to lend me an affidavit as to the Confederate Half Dollar and I am returning the same herewith.

Evelyn and I look forward to taking Selma and you to dinner at the earliest opportunity so we can exchange a few wild tales.

Cordially,

EPN/atb

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

December 7, 1967

Mr. Lester Merkin
65 East 56th Street
New York, New York

Dear Lester:

I was delighted to see your new place of business and to have a chance to chat with you.

You were nice enough to lend me an affidavit as to the Confederate Half Dollar and I am returning the same herewith.

Evelyn and I look forward to spending an evening with you and Selma at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/stb

FORM #105

MEMORANDUM

December 13,1967

TO American Numismatic Society
Attention: Mr. North

FROM Eric P.Newman

Dear Mr. North:

In the BANK LEU Sale Catalogue in either 1962 or 1961 there was a G. Blake (a Sacramento California Assayer) gold ingot dated 1854 offered for sale. I am not sure whether Hess joined as a cataloguer.

Would you be nice enough to see if that could be located and send me a photocopy of the page and the correct name and date of the catalogue. I will be grateful.

EPN/atb

Bank Law – Hess

sale of 1961 or 1962

B Cahe + Co 1854

bar

Money

Stolen from Justin he had it for study from English owner

Ford had photos from Merkin

Gbv C. Blake

Assayer
Sec Cal

Rec [3.3.68] 3 rolls

900 + Hous

1854

wt 57.5 gms

January 24, 1968

Mr. Lester Merkin
65 East 56th St.
New York

Dear Lester:

Would you be nice enough to let me examine Item 39 in your coming sale. I will return it immediately.

Kindest regards,

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN

August 26, 1968

Mr. Lester Merkin
65 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Lester:

May I have another copy of your September 18, 1968 sale catalogue?

I will be appreciative.

Sincerely,

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

October 11, 1968

Mr. Lester Merkin
65 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Lester:

In the SCRAPBOOK you indicate that you will offer for sale an unpublished 1776 Continental pewter dollar. May I see it?

Dick Picker also suggested that we should see the 1724 Rosa patterns.

Your usual cooperation will be most appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

LESTER MERKIN
65 EAST 56TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022
PLAZA 3-1130

October 14, 1968

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education
Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Enclosed is the 1776 Continental Dollar from the sale, and another of the same variety discovered recently, for your examination.

I am also enclosing the 1724 Rosa patterns.

By the way, Eric, the coins are not automatically insured for their return. Would you be good enough to have them insured for $10,000 when they are being returned.

Sincerely,

Lester

LM:s

Enclosures

LESTER MERKIN COINS
65 EAST 56 St.

OUR NUMBER	
DATE	Oct 15, 1968
CUSTOMER'S ORDER	Auction Nov 20, 1968
SALESMAN	
TERMS	
F. O. B.	

Sold To ERIC NEWMAN
6450 Cecil Ave
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Shipped To

Address FOR EXAMINATION Via

Lots	33					
	34					
	100					
		Continental Dollars -				
			10,000			

AD 70

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

October 28, 1968

Mr. Lester Merkin
65 East 56th Street
New York, New York

Dear Lester:

I am returning herewith the four coins which you were kind enough to send me for examination. I called up your office today to ask you whether you wanted my comments as to any of them but you had gone to Europe.

If you would like my comments on Item No. 100, please write me, as I think you will want to hear them.

Thank you for being so considerate as to send me the pieces.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

REGISTERED MAIL

Western Merleon
Oct 1968

$262\frac{1}{2}$ — in
27 — wide
$35\frac{1}{2}$ — [illegible]

35 [illegible] 6.5 [illegible] spaced

1-B in [illegible] part metal

Cracked [illegible] + rear of letters
— design not blunt + [illegible] evidence

laterally

Dent from handle to left side of upright
[illegible] in CONTINUATION
Dent also inside = C of ROAD
Rear upright [illegible] on bottom
Dent may also

Project in Merleon Indep
on last #100 . 11 . 68

Edge [illegible] properly, spaced and inkedly
[illegible] design but no [illegible] are visible.
Another evidence
[illegible] seam from a 1-B

Merleon oct 1968

267 — wide
230 — wide
37 — [illegible]

7.2 [illegible]
[illegible]

Rear — [illegible] for the 1-C

Left Circle outside and [illegible] with 1-B
of CONTINENTAL to right side of [illegible]
[illegible] front [illegible]

Edge repeat (like a cavity part) number 77
bump on L of CONTINENTAL on 1-B
CIRCLE)

No die [illegible]

Rear = 30° clockwise [illegible]

Diagnostic Dent on rear number 69 - [illegible]

method: The edge is rolled twice indicating the [illegible] was [illegible] and [illegible] are on top of each other.

LESTER MERKIN
65 EAST 56TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022
PLAZA 3-1130

November 16, 1968

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros., Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

Dear Eric:

Please send me your opinion regarding the 1-B Continental Dollar. The lot has been withdrawn from the sale pending further examination. The consigner has been very cooperative.

By the way, Dr. Sloss will be mailing you a photograph of another weirdo.

Regards,

Lester Merkin

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

November 18, 1968

Mr. Lester Merkin
65 East 56th Street
New York, New York

Dear Lester:

In your note of November 14, 1968 you have asked our opinion with respect to the CONTINENTAL DOLLAR listed and described as Lot 100 in your sale of November 20, 1968.

It weighs 262½ grains and has a specific gravity of 7.4 according to our measurements. We did not check its metal content by nondestructive analysis. The statement made in the catalogue that it was virtually pure tin is only valid if a quantitative analysis has been made, as other metals can produce the same specific gravity. We therefore reject that statement.

This particular piece is variety 1-B and is in a gray metal darker in color than the customary metal used in other pewter or tin pieces of other die varieties. Other pieces we have seen with this color metal have all been false.

There is a dent from the border to the left side of the upright of L in CONTINENTAL. There is a dent between the sun dial and the O of YOUR. The reverse of the piece is upright if the piece is turned on its vertical axis. The edge has diagonal dents properly spaced and indicating the usual leaf design but no leaves are visible. All the lettering of the obverse and reverse as well as the design are uniformily too thick and are extended laterally so that they appear broader than the identical design and lettering on other pieces from the same dies. There is little evidence of wear for a piece in such flattened condition. It might be argued that the broadening effect was caused by crushing the two sides between two flat places but we do not think that would produce the precise uniformity of the spread. The widened lettering and design can result from poor technique in casting and that is our conclusion. The lack of detail on the edge also indicates that the piece is a casting and not milled by a Castaing machine.

You were kind enough to send another example of 1-B in pewter which seems genuine in every respect.

Sincerely yours,

EPN
stb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 5, 1970

Mr. Lester Merkin
65 East 56th Street
New York, New York

Dear Lester:

As I promised you, I want to call your attention to the article in the June, 1940 NUMISMATIST with respect to the Moffat bars. This distinguishes between what are genuine and what are counterfeit in Stacks's opinion.

I hope this will be helpful.

If you are interested in selling the bar to me, I would be interested, as I do not have one.

I hope you will be at the ANS meeting as I plan to be there.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

ENN/atb

LESTER MERKIN
65 EAST 56TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022
PLAZA 3-1130

January 15, 1970

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your letter of January 5th, and the information with regard to the Moffat bars.

I was unable to attend the ANS meeting as it is very difficult for me to leave the store on Saturdays.

As for the bar, I'll have to talk to you about it when I see you.

Regards,

Lester

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 26, 1970

Mr. Lester Merkin
65 East 56th Street
New York, New York

Dear Lester:

I have looked through some of the electrotypes which you were nice enough to let me examine. You have a great many of them and it occurred to me thatyyou might be willing to give our organization a few. You have a number of duplicates.

Naturally, you would never sell anything of this nature, and we would never buy anything of this nature so the matter would have to be on the basis of a pleasant relationship.

There is one technicality and that is two of the pieces are gold and I think you should have the intrinsic value in gold as to those items.

The list of those I need are on the accompanying sheet, with comments as to whether you have duplicates in the group or not.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

LESTER MERKIN
NUMISMATIST

65 EAST FIFTY-SIXTH STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022
TELEPHONE: PLAZA 3-1130

January 29, 1970

Mr. Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

Derar Eric:

With regard to your letter of January 26th, I agree and feel that the "fakes" should be with some organization and will be very happy to eventually let you have all of them.

For the moment I would like the pieces back except for duplicates which you may keep. I would simply like to review these and make my own notes etc.

Best regards,

Lester

MEMBER
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASS'N • AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY • ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL ASS'N OF PROFESSIONAL NUMISMATISTS
SOCIETY CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL NUMISMATISTS
APPRAISERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

August 20, 1971

Mr. Lester Merkin

65 East 56th Street

New York, New York

Dear Lester:

Unfortunately, I already had the little rectangular $1 California gold piece and therefore am returning it herewith. Thank you for giving me the oppostunity of acquiring it.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

Enc.

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
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OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

April 14, 1976

Mr. Lester Merkin
445 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Lester:

[redacted]

Just a word to thank you for the pleasant luncheon.

I am enclosing a list of the coins we talked about and would appreciate your evaluation based upon the assumption they are all in very fine condition and based on the assumption they are all in extremely fine condition. I will gladly talk over any questions you might have.

Would you add to your mailing list:

Mrs. Ruth Hill
4944 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108

It was very nice being with you and I hope it will happen more often.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

Encl.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

July 27, 1976

Mr. Lester Merkin
445 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Lester:

Thank you for the quick evaluation service you obtained for me from Randy. I appreciate it so much. I will be in touch with him.

Looking forward to your catalog (send two please).

Kindest regards and hope you are OK again.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

March 2, 1982

Mr. Lester Merkin
445 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Lester;

Please be sure to read the section in the Clifford sale of Bowers and Ruddy as to the discovery of a number of the pieces being offered for sale. It is a quoted portion and may be of substantial interest to you when you compare it with what is in your file.

Cordially,

Eric P. Newman

jah

Mercantile
Money Museum

Mercantile Tower
Seventh & Washington
St. Louis, Mo. 63101
314-421-1819

April 18, 1989

Lester Merkin
400 E. 56th St.
New York, NY 10022

Dear Lester:

Thank you for a most pleasant time together. I am glad you are determined to be back in action and so you will be.

The suggestion you made about visiting Joel Coen was acted upon and I enjoyed it.

Don't forget to look up the letter listing the special Nagy items.

I never had better egg plant.

My best,

Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

July 28, 1992

Mrs. Selma Merkin
400 E. 56th Street
Apt. 35L
New York, NY 10022

Dear Selma:

Lester was always a great lift in my numismatic life because of the quality of his character. I will sincerely miss him.

My best to you.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

Phone 212/234-3130
Fax 212/234-3381
E-mail Info@AmNumSoc.Org

THE·AMERICAN·NUMISMATIC·SOCIETY
(FOUNDED 1858 · INCORPORATED 1865)
BROADWAY·AT·155TH·STREET
NEW·YORK·N.Y. 10032

August 31, 1999

Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis MO 63105

Dear Eric,

I recently came across in some of your old correspondence with Lester Merkin, in 1967, and Peter Mitchell, in 1974, a reference to a gold G. Blake ingot, which was owned by a Bryan Grover and consigned to a Leu sale. I have not been able to track down the particular Leu sale, so I have not been able to find a photograph.

Any information you have about this ingot and can send me would be greatly appreciated.

All the best,

John

John Kleeberg